

Attorney Docket No. 1985/US/2
USPTO Facsimile No. (571) 273-8300

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-34 are pending in the application. This paper cancels claims 21 and 26-34, and adds no claims. Accordingly, after entry, claims 1-20 and 22-25 will be pending.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's Indication that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the claims from which it depends and to overcome certain indefiniteness objections, discussed below.

The Applicant has rewritten claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 21.

2. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102- Anticipation

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,783,919 to Ansell (hereinafter "Ansell"). The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 25, 26 and 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,716,007 to Nottingham et al. (hereinafter "Nottingham"). The Examiner further rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 16-18, 25 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,197,460 to Ito et al. (hereinafter "Ito"). For at least the following reasons, the Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of independent claim 21 (although not all intervening claims). In particular, claim 1 now requires that:

the reservoir comprises:
a shelf portion defined about a bottom portion of the reservoir; and
a base at a bottom end of the reservoir;
a fluid access valve fluidly coupling with said inlet conduit,
the fluid access valve comprising:
a channel defined within the reservoir extending from the shelf to the base, said channel receiving an inlet conduit;
a seal positioned about a top end of the channel;
a spring extending upwardly from the base within the reservoir; and
a ball positioned within the channel between said seal and said spring; and
a reservoir inlet conduit positioned along the base of the reservoir, the reservoir inlet conduit fluidly coupled with the channel, so that fluid is drawn from the bottom of the reservoir...

The Applicant respectfully submits no cited reference (or combination of references) teaches these limitations. Neither Ansell, Nottingham, nor Ito teach or suggest the particular

Attorney Docket No. 1985/US/2
USPTO Facsimile No. (571) 273-8300

limitations of the reservoir, fluid access valve and reservoir inlet conduit required by independent claim 1, nor their physical connections to one another. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the cited references. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejection and allow claim 1.

Claims 16-18 depend directly from independent claim 1 and are therefore likewise patentable. The Applicant makes this statement without reference to or waiving the independent bases of patentability within each dependent claim. The Applicant thus respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejections and allow these claims over the cited references.

3. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103- Obviousness

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as rendered obvious by Ito in combination with United States Patent No. 5,125,835 to Young (hereinafter "Young"). Similarly, the Examiner rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as rendered obvious by Ito. Further, the Examiner rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as rendered obvious by Ansell. Next, the Examiner rejected claims 6-12, 15-17, 19-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as rendered obvious by Nottingham in combination with United States Patent No. 4,108,167 to Hickman et al. The Examiner further rejected claims 13 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as rendered obvious by Nottingham in combination with United States Patent No. 3,572,375 to Rosenberg. Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 14 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as rendered obvious by Nottingham in combination with Rosenberg, United States Patent No. 4,160,383 to Rauschenberger, and United States Patent No. 555,588 to Spencer. The Applicant disagrees with the various rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 27 and 28 have been canceled. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejections of these claims.

The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 1. The Applicant has demonstrated above that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, these dependent claims are likewise patentable. The Applicant makes this statement without reference to or waiving the independent bases of patentability within each claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejections and allow these claims.

Attorney Docket No. 1985/US/2
USPTO Facsimile No. (571) 273-8300

4. *Conclusion*

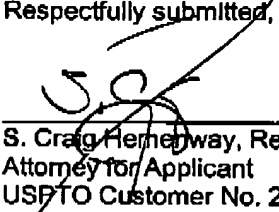
The Applicant believes no fees or petitions are due with this filing. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 as necessary.

Insofar as this Amendment and Response is submitted within two months from the mailing date of the outstanding Office action, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner issue an advisory action confirming allowance of the claims pending after entry of this paper.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or believes any outstanding matters exist that may be addressed by a telephone call, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: 3 March 2006

Respectfully submitted,


S. Craig Herndon, Registration No. 44,759
Attorney for Applicant
USPTO Customer No. 20686

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
370 Seventeenth Street, Suite 4700
Denver, Colorado 80202-5647
Tel: 303-629-3400
Fax: 303-629-3450